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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 02677 161120Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------096304 161121Z /11
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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8721

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2677

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID, SWEL, ET, US
SUBJECT: WOLLO FAMINE EMERGENCY

REFS: (A) STATE 151827 (B) ADDIS ABABA 2579

1. LYMAN/SHIMELIS MEETING HELD 6/13/78 PRIOR LYMAN DEPARTURE FROM ADDIS. SHIMELIS PROJECTED RELIEF FOOD SHORTAGE AS "MOST SERIOUS CRISIS HE HAS FACED IN HIS RRC POSITION" (I.E. SINCE APRIL 1974) AND NOTED OFFICIAL PMGSE ESTIMATE OF PRESENT OVERALL RELIEF FEEDING REQUIREMENT OF ETHIOPIA IS 1.2 REPEAT 1.2 MILLION PEOPLE.

2. AGAINST HIS 12-MONTH PROJECTION OF 200,000 MT OF RELIEF GRAIN NEEDED TO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT, SHIMELIS NOTES HE HAS ONLY 30,000 MT IN THE PIPELINE, OF WHICH HE OWED 12,000 MT TO ETHIOPIAN AGRICULTURAL MARKETING CORPORATION (HOWEVER, AS USAID HAS INDICATED PREVIOUSLY, THERE IS ADDITIONAL WFP/FFW GRAIN IN PIPELINE WHICH CLEARLY SUPPORTIVE RELIEF REQUIREMENTS). BEYOND NEEDS ALREADY ESTIMATED FOR WOLLO/TIGRE, BALE AND THE OGADEN, SHIMELIS ALSO ADVISED THAT BOTH ILLUBABOR AND GEMU GOFA PROVINCES ARE NOW DEFICIT.
HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT HIS 12-MONTH PROJECTION IS LOW AND
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THAT OSRO/MDM NOW STUDYING FOOD/LOGISTICS REQUIREMENTS WILL COME UP WITH HIGHER, MORE ACCURATE FIGURE.

3. SHIMELIS SAID THAT HIS INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR RELIEF FOOD MOVEMENT PAST 90 DAYS HAS NOW REACHED APPROXIMATELY US $13 MILLION, MUCH OF WHICH HAS GONE TO SUPPORT PRE-POSITIONING OF FOOD IN WOLLO.

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4. SHIMELIS TOLD LYMAN THAT HE WOULD WELCOME A US TITLE II
RELIEF GRAIN CONTRIBUTION (PREFERABLY WHEAT) AND WE ARE
EXPECTING OFFICIAL REQUEST MOMENTARILY FOR THE MOST
IMMEDIATE POSSIBLE SHIPMENT OF A US CONTRIBUTION
IN PROPORTION TO THOSE OF OTHER DONORS AND IN LINE WITH
PREVIOUS COMMITMENTS.

5. ACTING USAID DIRECTOR MET YESTERDAY (6/15/78)
WITH OSRO/MDM AT UNDP DONOR MEETING. IN ADDITION ELICITING
BACKGROUND DETAIL, TEAM POSED DIRECT QUESTION TO US, SWEDEN
AND W.GERMANY ON WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL GRAIN
SUPPORTIVE RELIEF FOOD COMMITMENT IN CONTEXT OF PRESENT,
CLEAR NEED. BOTH SWEDEN AND WEST GERMANY WERE NONCOMMITAL
NOTING MDM STUDY WOULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION
OF ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS. QUESTION TO U.S. WAS
SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT IN VIEW OF CONTINUING TITLE II
SUPPLEMENTARY/REHABILITATIVE FOOD PROVISION THROUGH
CRS/UNICEF/WFP OVER PAST YEAR -- WE WERE ASKED WHETHER
WE MIGHT CONSIDER MEETING PART OF ESTIMATED 27,000 MT
REQUIREMENT IN THAT AREA. THE DISCUSSION THEN SHIFTED
TO THE QUESTION OF HOW THIS MASSIVE SUPPLEMENTARY/REHABILITATIVE
FEEDING EFFORT COULD BE MANAGED. NO DEFINITIVE U.S. RESPONSE
TO ADDITIONAL FOOD GRAIN/SUPPORTIVE FOOD WAS MADE THEREFORE.

6. WHILE ANY ALLOCATION OBVIOUSLY DEPENDENT ON MDM EFFORT
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AND OTHER DONOR ANTICIPATED COMMITMENTS, WE BELIEVE NEED
AS DEVELOPING IS ONE WE ABLE TO CONSIDER WITHOUT
IMMEDIATELY DEFINITIVE ANALYSIS. OUR EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT
OF COMMITMENT IN PRINCIPLE WOULD PROVIDE INCENTIVE/ADDITIONAL
BASIS FOR OTHER DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS AND BULWARK MDM
EFFORTS.
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